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Thursday, May 31, 2012

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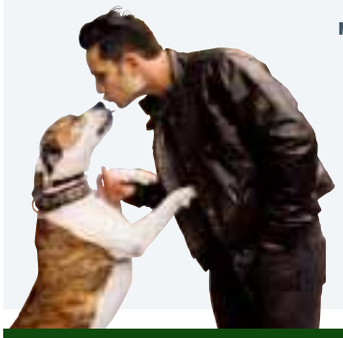

TV IS REALLY GOING TO THE DOGS

GET READY FOR A WAVE OF REALITY PET SHOWS THIS SUMMER PAGE 14

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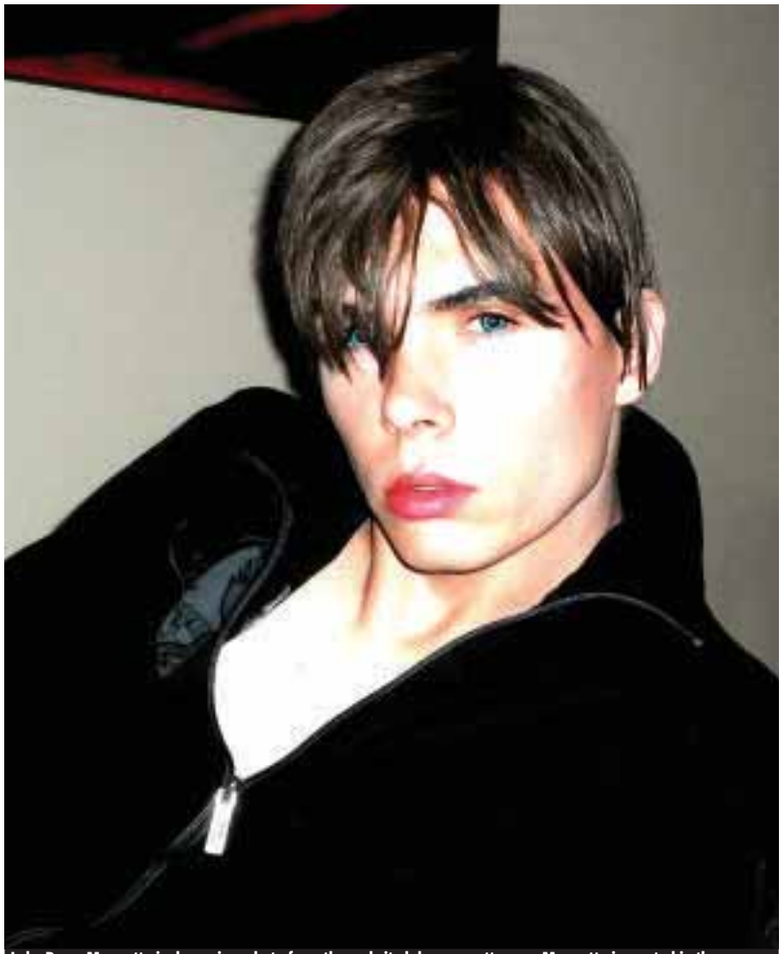

Luka Rocco Magnotta is shown in a photo from the website luka-magnotta.com. Magnotta is wanted in the shocking case of a dismembered body whose parts were mailed to different places, including the headquarters of the Conservative Party of Canada. LUKA-MAGNOTTA.COM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'There is such things as Monsters, Demons and Ghosts'

Warning: Some graphic details. Man is sought in connection with a three-step crime: A killing, dismemberment and mailing of body parts to Ottawa

JOE LOFARO
Metro in Ottawa

Police are looking for a low-budget porn star wanted in a shocking homicide that came to light on Tuesday when a severed foot was mailed to Conservative party headquarters in Ottawa.

On Wednesday, Montreal police issued a Canada-wide warrant for Luka Rocco Magnotta, 29. He's wanted for questioning in the discovery of a human torso in Montreal and mailed body parts found in Ottawa on Tuesday.

Reports say the killing was captured on video and posted to the Internet. Montreal police confirmed to Metro on Wednesday they are aware of the video and have seized a copy.

Magnotta, who police say also goes by the name Eric Clinton Newman and Vladimir Romanov, has for two years been notorious among animal-rights activists looking for a man who tortured and killed cats and posted videos of the slayings online.

A Facebook page belonging to a self-described model with the same name lists a variety of personal heroes and includes this quote: "There is such things as Monsters, Demons and Ghosts. They live inside of us, and sometimes they win."

After the discovery at the Conservative Party of Canada headquarters, Ottawa police intercepted a package Tuesday night that contained a hand and was destined for the Liberal Party of Canada, Montreal police said. Both packages were mailed to Ottawa from Montreal and police believe the body parts all belonged to the same male victim, although they are waiting for the results of DNA tests.

For continuing coverage of the case, go to metronews.ca.

Magnotta case

A disturbing chain of events

It turns out the severed human foot delivered to Tory headquarters was only the latest event in a gruesome sequence.

Before that, someone repeatedly stabbed a young man with an ice pick. While both killer and victim lay naked, he dismembered the corpse and committed sexual and cannibalistic acts on it.

That same person apparently videotaped the scene and posted it on the Internet. The video is being reviewed by Montreal police.

Police are now on the hunt for a suspect and trying to determine what demon might possibly have possessed a man to commit the acts alleged to have been committed in Montreal.

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Western blacked out; failure's cause unknown

No power at school. Missed classes could impact students with condensed schedules this spring/summer

JOHN MATISZ
john.matisz@metronews.ca

A daylong power outage at Western University is proving to be quite the mystery.

"At first we thought it might have been a problem off-campus at London Hydro's end," Western spokesperson Keith Marnoch said. "But while investigating the situation with them, it looks like it was one of our sub-stations."

The unexpected blackout began at 12:05 a.m. Wednesday, with officials citing an "off-site cable failure." Despite efforts from hydro workers throughout the night and into the afternoon, power was not expected to be restored until around 9 p.m.

In the early evening, Marnoch confirmed that power was actually cut due to an issue with a transformer in one of three on-campus sub-stations.

However, what caused the failure has yet to be determined.

Both the engineering building and student-services centre sent staff home for the day around noon, while numerous final exams were postponed. The school's main library, D.B. Weldon, was closed down as well, inconveniencing hundreds of students.

Since spring and summer class schedules are condensed, missing one day of schooling can become a major hassle for post-secondary students. A class in the spring/summer is often equivalent to a week's worth of classes in the fall/winter, Marnoch said.

And although fourth-year global development student Anjelica Handsor, 21, didn't miss a crucial exam thanks to the mystery power outage, it was still a nuisance.

"I planned on going to the gym to work out and library to study before class," Handsor said, "but once I saw the school talking about the power outage on Twitter, I said forget it."

The university said it will resume normal operations Thursday. All facilities will be open.

Follow John Matisz on Twitter @Metro_JMatisz

Day without power

21

The number of hours most of Western University's campus was without power.

A lengthy power outage affected hundreds of Western University students Wednesday. Anjelica Handsor, 21, of Chatham, who has a final exam Thursday morning, couldn't access D.B. Weldon Library for most of the day.
JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Overhaul. Two city hall executive positions deemed to be redundant

A major shakeup at 300 Dufferin Ave. has resulted in two of the City of London's highest-paying jobs being cut.

Ross Fair, executive director of community services with the City of London, was relieved of his duties Wednesday morning. Pat McNally, executive director of planning, environmental and engineering services, will not be replaced after having recently retired.

A news release from interim city manager Tim Dobbie said: "The goal of this reorganization is to ensure that we have clearly defined roles and responsibilities, eliminate duplication in service delivery and promote efficiencies and effectiveness through thoughtful integration of services."

Next to former chief administrative officer Jeff Fielding, who left London for Burlington in January, Fair earned more than any other employee at city hall. According to provincial figures, Fair made $205,028.65 in 2011. McNally was third highest on the payroll, earning $196,134.36 last year.

Just last week, it was announced Art Zuidema had been hired as London's new city manager, ending an exhaustive search.

He's coming to London from the City of Hamilton, and is set to assume his new post Aug. 13.

METRO/AM980/AM980.CA

McClintic

New trial for alleged victim of Stafford killer

Ontario's top court has ordered a new first-degree murder trial for a woman accusing Terri-Lynne McClintic of beating her up in prison.

Aimee McIntyre was found guilty in May 2010 of first-degree murder in the death of her ex-boyfriend.

McClintic, who is serving a life sentence for the first-degree murder of eight-year-old Tori Stafford, is charged with assault causing bodily harm stemming from an incident in prison in Kitchener.

The court says McIntyre did not receive a fair first trial.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

407 tickets handed out

Police tally road safety results

The London Police Service recently participated in Canada Road Safety Week 2012, from May 14 to 21. Police focused on distracted driving, impaired driving, seat-belt infractions, and aggressive driving.

There were 407 provincial tickets handed out for aggressive driving, distracted driving or a seat-belt infraction.

Also during Road Safety Week, Joshua Switzer, 22, of London was killed at the intersection of Highbury Avenue North and Fanshawe Park Road East.

Darrin Norton, 34, of St. Thomas was charged with leaving the scene of a collision causing death.

METRO

Coping with change

United Way hosts dialogue on job loss

The United Way is hosting a community conversation on Thursday to discuss how London supports families affected by job loss. The event will be held at the Hilton London's Grand Ballroom East from 1 to 4 p.m.

"Having an impact and creating lasting change in London and Middlesex County starts with mobilizing our community to come together to share their experiences, expertise and energy," United Way's Kelly McManus said in a news release.

Participants in Thursday's event will be invited to a follow-up meeting June 21. METRO

1 NEWS

On the web

Facebook CEO going through money woes?

It's not just Facebook's stocks that are going through some tough times these days. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg was caught on camera dumbfounded after unsuccessfully trying to withdraw money from an ATM. Watch the clip online at metronews.ca.

Cannibal victim faces a tough future

The gory nature of the recent face-mauling attack in Miami has shocked members of the city's police force. With a motive for the assault still unclear, doctors say the victim faces a long, painful recovery. See the video update at metronews.ca.

Mobile news

Computer technicians battling to contain a complex virus last month resorted to the ultimate firewall measures — cutting off Internet links to Iran's Oil Ministry. Scan the code to read more about what officials did to stamp out the Flame virus.

Noise limit. Rock-fest organizer says city's new proposal still a problem

In a city-hall debate about how loud is too loud, at least one group is planning to make sure its voice is heard, well, loud and clear.

Brad Jones
FACEBOOK.COM

Brad Jones, president of the production company behind Rock the Park, said a proposal that could up the volume on outdoor concerts as high as 100 decibels doesn't go far enough. And he plans to tell city staff that at a proposed June 19 public meeting — with what he promises will be a strong contingent of supporters.

Jones wants the city to create a policy that would let festival organizers seek exemptions to rules governing how loud things can get. He says several Ontario cities have already taken that route.

"If they can do it, why can't London?"

The exemptions, Jones said, could come with a "reasonable" cap along the lines of 105 decibels — 0.7 decibels shy of the loudest Rock the Park volume city officials recorded in 2011.

Bill Coxhead, recreation director, wrote in an email on Wednesday that allowing for exemptions isn't necessarily out of the question. In the end, he wrote, councillors could decide to grant exemptions to some events, but the conversation right now is about setting rules for everyone.

"Then you would need an exemption from those rules," he wrote.

People tied to the Harris Park music festival led the charge on sparking a debate in February, asking city council to consider upping the existing 90-decibel limit in most parks. City staff were asked to study how outdoor concerts are governed elsewhere. Mayor Joe Fontana mentioned that Sarnia — which sets no limit, allowing bylaw officers to decide what's too loud — might be a good model.

The resulting report from Coxhead suggests the city's limit should be increased by no more than 10 decibels.

The way things are now, groups that go over the limit lose a $500 "noise deposit" given to the city in advance of events.

Rock the Park, a charity fundraiser, has sunk about $2,500 worth of deposits into city coffers in the past eight years.

But it's more the "principle" of the matter that irks Jones, who says keeping a rock concert at or below 100 decibels is next to impossible.

"The reality is, it's a rock concert. It's going to be loud," he said. "I think there has to be a limit.... I'm not out to (make people go deaf), but a realistic number needs to be put on this.

"When a lawn mower cutting grass is 95 decibels, I mean, come on."

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Added decibels

Less stress for organizers

While some festival organizers are concerned that city rules limiting volume and mandating an 11 p.m. closing time put a damper on things, some aren't too worried.

Doug Hillier, president of Family Shows Canada, said he's never had a problem during any of the four annual events — Kid's Expo, International Food Festival, Ribfest and Fall Fest — he organizes in Victoria Park.

He can, however, understand why events like Rock the Park are in favour of a change. Plus, he said, having a few extra decibels — or hours — to play with wouldn't be a bad thing.

"We wouldn't (have to) be stressed out … if we went to 11:01 (p.m.) or a couple of decibels (louder)."

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Occupy London

Protest nets charges

Two Londoners are facing charges after Occupy London supporters took to the streets Tuesday in support of Quebec's student protesters. Emilia Wilson, 23, and Cameron Lavin, 19, have been charged with obstructing a peace officer, police said. Lavin also was charged with breaching court conditions. About 50 people attended the protest. METRO

Brantford music fest

Concerts postponed

A three-day music festival in Brantford, headlined by Weezer, Creed and Marianas Trench, has been postponed at the last minute after two planned venues fell through. Hockeyfest promoter Ralph Spoltore told a press conference on Wednesday that he's still trying to find a way to stage the concerts, which were set for this weekend starting Friday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Evodi Bashangi, 17, feeds her 15-month-old daughter Ava on Wednesday in their apartment at the Bethesda Centre. The high chair Ava is sitting in is one of the few possessions Bashangi has besides clothing. With the centre for teen moms expected to close at the end of June, the mother and daughter are looking for a new place to live. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Bethesda campaign ends short of goal

Protest planned. Teen moms seek new homes

ANGELA MULLINS
angela.mullins@metronews.ca

Evodi Bashangi has her 15-month-old daughter Ava, clothes for both of them and a high chair.

With that in tow, the 17-year-old may be setting out to face the world on June 30.

"And the picture frames," Bashangi said Wednesday, standing in the living room of her apartment at the Bethesda Centre. "I own the frames."

To say she's worried about what will happen if the Salvation Army follows through on plans to close the home for teen moms would be an understatement.

The nonprofit had said the doors would stay open if a committee could raise $1.5 million by May 31. The official tally stood at about $368,000 on Wednesday, and the committee's multiple requests for a deadline extension have been denied.

Salvation Army officials declined to answer questions from Metro, saying a statement would be released Thursday morning.

They also haven't been talking to Bethesda's seven residents, Bashangi said.

"I guess I'm waiting for (Thursday) like everyone else," she said. "All we know is we have to find a place by July 1. They (haven't) even (told us) if we're able to (take) the furniture in our apartments."

As members of the fundraising committee put the finishing touches on plans for a protest, Bashangi was apartment-hunting Wednesday afternoon.

She came home frustrated.

Rent at a place that seemed perfect was above the amount Ontario Works will cover. Cheaper apartments were in neighbourhoods where Bashangi said she wouldn't feel safe raising Ava.

While she's applied to get on a waiting list for public housing, Bashangi doesn't expect something to be available soon.

"Either I'm homeless or I go live in those places where it's affordable (but) a really bad area," she said. "I'm extremely concerned."

Follow Angela Mullins on Twitter @MetroAngela

Raising their voices

The Save Bethesda committee has planned what's dubbed a "peaceful protest" from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday outside the Salvation Army's headquarters at 371 King St.

Doctors, province looking to resume talks

Deb Matthews METRO FILE

The tense relations between doctors and the Liberal government eased slightly Wednesday, but the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) still would not agree to return to contract talks.

Doctors are balking at the government's demand for a two-year wage freeze, but both sides expressed optimism for the first time in weeks after a meeting between Health Minister Deb Matthews and Dr. Doug Weir, president of OMA.

"We had a very productive meeting and a good talk and agreed that we'll continue to talk," Weir said in an interview.

"We both agree that resuming negotiations is in the best interests of everybody, so we're going to talk some more is where we left it."

Matthews said the two agreed to have their officials meet soon to hammer out exactly what they want to talk about at the bargaining table before OMA will agree to resume negotiations.

"I think the OMA and the ministry have a lot of common ground to build on, particularly our commitment to do a better job when it comes to primary care so that family doctors have a stronger role in our health-care system," Matthews told reporters.

"We need to work with the OMA to really achieve the potential of primary care."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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BILL LEE LOVES THIS TOWN

The Frontier League commissioner spoke with Metro about the Rippers, as well as the league itself

JOHN MATISZ
john.matisz@metronews.ca

Where did you stand on the Rippers naming controversy when it exploded back in November?
"We've got Schaumburg Boomers and Joliet Slammers. You've got the River City Rascals and the Washington Wild Things. It's part of our marketing; it's about getting people talking about the name. From that side of it, it was a great choice."
The Frontier League was in London before, with the Werewolves playing three seasons from 1999 to 2001. Will it last this time around?
"There's a real good financial backing with this group. I'm really pleased with that. It wasn't there last time."
Any memories from the first stint that stick out?
"The most amazing feat I've ever seen in the Frontier League was on opening night 12 years ago. Brett Grey, a London Werewolves pitcher, struck out 25 batters. It's an amazing story."
What gives you confidence that London is a suitable place for a team in 2012?
"I love the town, I love the market, I love the facility. It's a big-league atmosphere for these guys. Baseball's not a national sport up here, but you guys understand it."
What do the Rippers have to do to compete on the field this year?
"In this league, there's a good mix of veterans and rookies. The ones that really do well are those who have impact rookies. We've had expansion teams win the title — it's not impossible."
How much do the players in the Frontier League make?
"The team salary cap for the entire year is $75,000. Players earn anywhere from $600 to $1,600 a month. It's all based on their experience levels."

Wednesday's game

Late comeback sinks Rippers

A five-run eighth inning propelled the Schaumburg Boomers to a 6-3 win over the London Rippers on Wednesday in Illinois. Rippers starter Sheng-An Kuo was outstanding, allowing only one run and two hits through seven innings. Reliever Adam Arnold (1-2) took the loss.

London's Stephen Cardullo had a big day at the plate, going 2-for-4 with two runs batted in. Aaron Glaum hit the first triple in Rippers history.

London and Schaumburg will play the rubber game of this series Thursday night.

Greeting from grandson at fundraiser finish line

Bob Facca, 63, of London, poses for a photo with his grandson Louie Facca, 4, of Kalamazoo, Mich., Wednesday shortly after wrapping up a 500-kilometre walk to raise money for research aimed at ending Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Bob started the walk May 7 in Owen Sound, raising an estimated $200,000. Louie has been diagnosed with the muscle disorder. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Questioning. Premier may be hauled into Ornge legislative committee

Premier Dalton McGuinty is facing the prospect of being grilled about Ornge by a legislative committee investigating Ontario's troubled air-ambulance service.

Tory critic Frank Klees, who sits on the committee, said he'll put forward a motion to haul in the premier to testify. The public needs to hear from McGuinty about Ornge, which is currently under a criminal probe for financial irregularities, he said. McGuinty has "refused" to answer most questions about Ornge over the last few months, Klees added.

"I think what's owed to the people of this province is a response from the premier, who ultimately is responsible for the decisions that are made in this government," he told McGuinty in the legislature.

The premier at first punted Klees' questions to government house leader John Milloy, then finally rose to respond. But McGuinty wouldn't say whether he would be willing to appear before the committee.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Criticism

- Ontario's auditor general has criticized the Liberals for giving Ornge $730 million over five years with virtually no oversight of how the money was spent.

City eyeing new communication methods

After many residents disobeyed the weekend watering ban because they simply weren't informed, city council may implement a new method of communication.

"We should look at an auto-dial system or an automatic-information feed system" Coun. Joni Baechler said. City staff will examine other avenues of communication, such as Reverse 911, which calls residents with a pre-recorded message, just like a telemarketer.

AM980/AM980.CA

Serving up something new on Dundas

Makeover. Restaurant industry pro switching things up in downtown

ANGELA MULLINS
angela.mullins@metronews.ca

The storefront that housed Braise restaurant is getting a new tenant and a makeover.

Joe Duby is leaving his job as manager of Waldo's on King (130 King St.) to open a new venture — blu duby — in the space at 125 Dundas St.

Leasing the space was an opportunity Duby, and his wife/business partner, Cheryl, couldn't let pass.

"We've had a couple (of prospective locations) fall through on King Street, then Braise came up" in February, Duby said. "It's such a beautiful location. It screams to be full of people eating and drinking and having a good time."

Slated to open some time between July 15 and Aug. 1, blu duby will feature dishes from chef Scott Sanderson, who's leaving La Casa at 117 King St. to be part of the new venture.

This storefront at 125 Dundas St. will soon be home to a new restaurant called blu duby. Braise restaurant, the former tenant, closed abruptly in February. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Former Braise fans will notice decor and menu changes, Duby said.

Chandeliers and tablecloths that helped establish Braise's high-end atmosphere are being dashed for a more casual ambience and a menu Duby describes as more "approachable."

The lineup will feature a mix of entrees ranging from $18 to $25 with lots of vegetarian offerings and an affordable wine list. Live entertainment is also in the works.

Duby said he's stopping at nothing to ensure customers have the best possible experience from speedy lunches to tableside manner.

"I've handpicked a crew of servers from several different restaurants and brought some out of retirement."

As for clientele, Duby said he's not necessarily trying to compete with downtown hot spots. Rather, he wants blu duby to be a destination point for people who might not think of Dundas Street as their option for dining.

"It's (about) building a good, solid restaurant district, and we're competing with restaurants out in the suburbs," Duby said. "We want to bring people down to the core."

At a glance

Joe Duby, 40, of London:

- Got his first taste of the service industry working in his dad's Grand Bend restaurant and hotel.
- General manager, Waldo's of London, formerly on Richmond Row.
- Former food and beverage manager, Four Points Sheraton in Kitchener and Arden Park Hotel in Stratford.
- General manager of London's former Caribou Creek restaurant on Wellington Road.
- Manager of Waldo's on King since 2004.

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Italy to rebuild area hit by second deadly quake

Emilia Romagna region. Towns of Mirandola, Medolla and Cavezzo closest to epicentre

Italian rescue workers removed the last earthquake victim from the rubble Wednesday, bringing the death toll to 17 as the government approved measures to rebuild the quake-hit area.

It's an area that is very crucial to Italy's economic health.

The magnitude-5.8 tremor north of Bologna on Tuesday felled old buildings and new factories and warehouses alike, many of them already weakened by a stronger quake May 20 that measured magnitude-6 and killed seven people.

A woman in Cavezzo, Italy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In both quakes, the dead were disproportionately workers toiling in factories, leading to some questions about Italy's building codes or possible corruption.

Prime Minister Mario Monti has promised to rebuild. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Whistleblower case

Journalist charged in Israel

Israel's attorney general has announced the indictment of a journalist who reported on classified documents provided by a military whistleblower. Officials said Uri Blau, a reporter for the Haaretz daily, is charged with unauthorized possession of state secrets. The maximum sentence is seven years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Villagers killed

UN council to meet on Syria massacre

A UN body will hold a special session Friday on the deteriorating situation in Syria and last week's massacre of more than 100 Syrian villagers.

The UN Human Rights Council said Wednesday its special session will address the massacre in Houla, Syria, which drew international condemnation and prompted the U.S. and at least a dozen other nations to expel Syrian diplomats.

The massacre has provoked strong global condemnation, but it is unlikely to trigger a military assault similar to last year's NATO-led campaign in Libya to oust Moammar Gadhafi.

A total of 51 nations — including France, Germany, Britain, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates — signed their support for the session. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Killing of 18 protesters

Egyptian cop gets five years

A court has convicted a policeman on charges of killing protesters during last year's uprising and sentenced him to five years in prison.

Mohammed el-Sunni was charged with taking part in the killing of 18 protesters in Cairo during the uprising that toppled dictator Hosni Mubarak. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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EI changes

Mexico wants to expand temporary workers in Canada

Mexico wants to increase its foreign workforce in Canada, despite the Conservative government's new employment insurance rules that aim to fill vacant jobs with unemployed Canadians instead.

Mexican Foreign Secretary Patricia Espinosa pressed for the expansion of the temporary-workers program to sectors other than agriculture during a visit Wednesday to Ottawa. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Retail

FGL Sports plans five-year expansion

Canadian Tire-owned FGL Sports plans an "aggressive" expansion of its most popular banners over the next five years while closing more than 100 underperforming stores operating under various names.

The closures affect 115 corporate stores under such banners as Sport Mart, Athletes World and Nevada Bob's Golf. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 97.16¢ US (-0.6¢)

TSX 11,433.22 (-176.08)

OIL $87.82 US (-$2.94)

GOLD $1,564.60 US (+$14.70)

Natural gas: $2.46 US (-2.2¢)
Dow Jones: 12,419.86 (-160.83)

Three people on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange display their BlackBerry smartphones on Wednesday. Research In Motion Ltd., the maker of the BlackBerry, is in a freefall. The company, once the crown jewel of the Canadian technology industry, is now worth one per cent of Apple's market capitalization. RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIM shares in steep decline

Research In Motion. Analysts take gloomy view of BlackBerry maker following forecast of loss, layoffs

A fresh batch of takeover speculation greeted BlackBerry-maker Research In Motion on Wednesday as analysts weighed in on the company's projected operating loss in the current quarter and its prospects for survival.

Shares of the Waterloo, Ont.-based company tumbled another 6.5 per cent, inching toward becoming a single-digit stock, after a statement from RIM late Tuesday said it hired two outside firms to advise on its troubled business and financial performance.

RIM was down 82 cents to close at $10.66 on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Chief executive Thorsten Heins said competition is affecting sales of RIM smartphones, and that it would respond by reining in costs and cutting staff by unspecified numbers throughout the rest of the year.

But analysts are concerned about the speed at which RIM is reeling in expectations ahead of the rollout of the new BlackBerry 10 operating system later this year.

Some analysts have also factored in RIM's dated inventory and restrained sales outlook, and responded by pulling back expectations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"While buying this stock is like going to the casino, RIM does have over $4 per share of cash and intellectual property with a book value of about $6 per share. If you're feeling lucky, this stock might be worth a dice roll under $10 per share."

National Bank analyst Kris Thompson in a note titled RIM Blows Up in Q1, Recovery Unlikely, saying he considers the company up for sale.

Partners. PepsiCo, Twitter launching music campaign

PepsiCo Inc. is lifting the curtain on its music partnership with Twitter, saying it plans to offer free downloadable songs on its Twitter page starting Wednesday and streaming video of live concerts this summer.

The No. 2 soda company says the first "pop-up" concert will be in late June. Followers will be able to influence aspects of the concert, such as the set list, by tweeting the names of songs they want played. Pepsi is staying mum on which artists it has lined up for the concerts. But the Purchase, N.Y., company has recently partnered with pop stars Nicki Minaj and Katy Perry in its marketing campaigns.

Live for Now

The partnership with Twitter is part of Pepsi's broader Live for Now campaign, which is using music to revive the brand's image and help win back market share from Coca-Cola Co.

A free downloadable song from Amazon.com's MP3 store will be selected based on a weekly video update. Pepsi followers need to include a Pepsi hashtag in a tweet to get the song. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CP Rail. Back-to-work bill speeds through Commons

Back-to-work legislation designed to end a CP Rail strike and get freight moving likely won't pass in the Senate until Thursday at the earliest, despite its overnight passage in the House of Commons.

MPs voted just before 1:30 a.m. Wednesday to pass Bill C-39, ordering 4,800 Canadian Pacific engineers and conductors back to work after a week-long strike.

Labour Minister Lisa Raitt said the labour dispute must end quickly because of the toll it's taking on the economy. The Harper government used its majority to force the legislation through the House of Commons in a single day.

Labour Minister Lisa Raitt THE CANADIAN PRESS

Even before the Senate began sitting Wednesday, the Conservative Senate leader was accusing the Liberal minority of obstructing Bill C-39's passage. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SKEPTICS, ASSEMBLE!

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

Don't tell anyone, but I'm in a band of superheroes. It's not easy. But with great powers come great responsibilities, so we struggle onward.

You see, I'm a Skeptic. And we are shunned and misunderstood.

I am ... Captain Incredulous! Defender of critical thought, wielder of common sense, saving the world from the Bible Thumper, Flim-Flam! and Dr. Alternative.

To enemies, "Skeptic" translates to closed-minded jerk who wouldn't recognize his spirit guide if it bit him on his chakra.

But we just want evidence. If you claim that God will help me find my apartment keys, or that my aura is the colour of Doritos, then I want questions answered. First and foremost: Do you bang your head often getting into cars?

Sorry. Captain Incredulous takes that back. I'm a poor spokesperson for the Skeptic Squad, as I have the same sense of restraint and tact as a U.S. presidential campaign.

This is my life, my curse. I must confront believers who say, "I feel sorry for you" and work with friends unaware of my secret identity as they compare star signs. The only "knocking on wood" I do is the repeated head-to-desk motion. It's the only way I keep from getting angry. Don't make me angry. You wouldn't like me angry.

Many of you are aligned against me. But maybe you'll understand if you gaze upon some of my exciting adventures:

Captain Incredulous No. 1: The Family!

Trapped for two decades inside a nuclear family that forces him to church every Sunday, our hero discovers his powers when he turns on his captors and says: "Isn't it wrong of me to consume the body of your Lord when to me it's only ice-cream wafer?" Even the Mummy, with her powers of lay ministry, cannot deflect the logic blast. A new hero joins the Skeptic Squad!

DAVID VAN DYKE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Captain Incredulous No. 7: Magnet Man!

Our hero suffers his first defeat when he meets Magnet Man, bearer of the Magnetic Bracelet. Hearing Magnet Man discuss the bracelet's powers with a bartender, Captain Incredulous forgets his logical weapons and instead blurts out, "Why don't you wear bunny ears?! It would have the same effect!" Captain Incredulous, met with stares and silence, slinks back to his corner of the Beer Cave.

Captain Incredulous No. 21: The Mayor!

The good captain is listening to radio transmissions when he hears his political leader, Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, say, "I like astrology, folks. I follow the stars." Fighting off the overpowering urge to curl up into a ball and die, Captain Incredulous remembers the earlier lesson not to let his emotions defeat him. He decides it's nice that the mayor and many of the lefties who hate him have common ground to work from. I may host a summit.

But until then, what adventures await?

All I know for sure is that the skeptic's life is a difficult one, fraught with awkward family barbecues. It's thankless, but we have an unrelenting belief in mankind: That it will get sillier by the day. No doubt about it.

This jelly's par for the course

GETTY IMAGES

Rooftop-patio golf

Just don't snack after putting

The roof of Selfridge's department store in London has become a jelly-themed golf course thanks to food architects Bompas & Parr. Ahead of the Queen's Jubilee, the nine-hole course features iconic British landmarks including Tower Bridge and Big Ben, all with an edible frosting. METRO

Urban oasis

"Adults find it hard to justify going to a theme park. We want to help people find pleasure in the city."

Sam Bompas, food architect.
Selfridge's has a long history of hedonism. In the 1930s the roof featured a golf course, pleasure garden and café. More recently, Bompas & Parr created a green boating lake there last year.

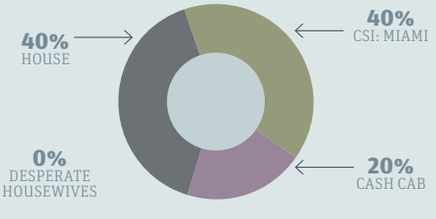
Bompas & Parr

- **Gasp!** One of the duo's first projects was a breathable cocktail made by vaporizing 600 litres of gin and tonic.
- **Rowing on punch:** In 2009, they flooded an 18th-century townhouse with 2,500 litres of Courvoisier punch and had their guests row across.
- **Chocolate climb:** The last creation was a series of climbing walls made out of chocolate.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Which show ending its long run in 2012 will you miss the most?



Twitter

@AArnott22:
There isn't a thing I don't love about my hometown #ldnont It might not be perfect but hey, at least we're trying:)

@imolnar:
#westernu power outage today = working from home. Starting to write a draft manuscript for my first PhD paper.

@FoodDrunkLondon:
Hey #LdnOnt , I think its time to lobby the city to allow food trucks on public property. I want to eat great street Food! RT!

@prideldnfest:
Want pride guides to share at your organization, business? Send us a DM with location & how many. Will do our best to get to you! #ldnont

@KathySmithLdnOn:
5 Volunteer Digital Storytellers needed for local project for veterans, seniors and elderly more info getkathysmith@gmail.com #LdnOnt

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2
SCENE

Elvira Kurt isn't looking for validation — just reassurance

Comedy with a cause. Critically-acclaimed comedian set to perform in London to raise money for non-profit Camp Wendake

BACKSTAGE PASS
Amanda Grant
london@metronews.ca

"I get nervous all the time," says Canadian comedian Elvira Kurt. "There is no guarantee that what you think works, is going to work."

But something keeps her coming back to the stage.

"Obviously I have a bizarre personality dysfunction," laughs Kurt.

On Saturday night, the critically-acclaimed comedian will perform at The Grand Theatre, a follow-up performance to her visit in February with CBC radio's Q.

"I blame Jian Ghomeshi for this show," Kurt says. "When we arrived in London, we had no idea of what to expect. Mostly, when I have performed with Second City or my own standup, there is a certain expectation — the audience is there for comedy. With Q it's not that same crowd, but the show was magic."

Kurt, who's had an extensive career in Canada and the United States performing on Just for Laughs, Comedy Central and the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, says she prefers performing live.

"I think something happens live. I go out there and bring what I have planned, but it's about reaction. You get the energy people bring to the show. On the best nights, on the most special nights, it is always something bigger than you expected," Kurt says.

Perhaps it's because Kurt's comedy is so relatable, whether dealing with personal issues or commenting on the latest (and most outrageous) celebrity scandal.

"I tend to take a lot of my experiences and frustration and bring them on stage," Kurt says. "It's not that I'm looking for validation so much as reassurance, like, I'm not crazy, right?"

Saturday's performance is a fundraiser for Camp Wendake, a non-profit camp on Lake Huron for people living with HIV/AIDS. For every ticket sold, The Grand Theatre will donate two dollars to the organization.

"It's a terrific when something works out like this," says Deb Harvey, executive director of The Grand. "It's a great show for the community but also for a non-profit organization."

Tickets are available through the box office and grandtheatre.com for $17 to $24. The show starts at 8 p.m.

Around town

- **Friday night stop by APK Live for the Half A Dino local compilation fundraiser show.** The Elwins, Young Rival, and The Hamptons will perform, all for just $7. Doors are at 8 p.m..
- **Stainless, The St Thomas Aquinas annual student art show, is at The ARTS Project.** The work by aspiring artists in the city will be on display at the Dundas Street gallery until Saturday.

Canadian comedian Elvira Kurt performs Saturday at The Grand Theatre. HANDOUT

Scene in brief

Shaw won't pick up Talackova reality show

Shaw Media is stepping back from comments suggesting it plans to air a reality show about transgender beauty queen Jenna Talackova. Programming boss Barbara Williams said Wednesday morning the broadcaster had picked up a reality show about the leggy Vancouver blond. But later in the afternoon, a Shaw spokeswoman said Williams "misinterpreted" a reporter's question and that such a show "is not part of Lifetime's channel lineup and has not been commissioned by the network." Talackova made headlines around the world when she was initially prohibited from competing in the Miss Universe Canada pageant because she was born a man. Pageant boss Donald Trump ultimately allowed Talackova to compete in the Toronto pageant earlier this month, where she was cut after making the top 12.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

Men in Black 3 is in the black with $69.3M debut weekend; Avengers adds $47.2M

Christian Slater to shoot film in Regina

A Regina film company says actor Christian Slater will star in its new science-fiction thriller Stranded.

Officials with Minds Eye Entertainment say the movie is about a mysterious infection that contaminates a space station in the not too distant future. Filming begins July 3 at the Canada Saskatchewan Production Studios in Regina.

Stranded will be directed by Roger Christian, director of the John Travolta movie Battlefield Earth. Christian is also a former production designer who was nominated for an Oscar for Alien and won an Academy Award for set direction on the original Star Wars.

Christian Slater has acted in dozens of television and film roles since the early 1980s, including hits such as Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves and Interview with a Vampire.

Minds Eye producer Kevin DeWalt said it is fortunate that Stranded was in place before the Saskatchewan government decided to cancel its Film Employment Tax Credit.

"It has been difficult raising financing for movies to be shot in Saskatchewan in the shadow of the current uncertainty surrounding the availability of local filming incentives in Saskatchewan past June 30, 2012," he said in a news release.

"We're fortunate for this one that the wheels were in motion long before this decision came down. Unfortunately on a go-forward basis, this lack of stability and support from the government is chasing away our investors on future projects shot in Saskatchewan."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Christian Slater is set to star in the new sci-fi film Stranded. Filming begins on July 3. GETTY IMAGES

Could Prometheus be true?

Deep space mystery. Former head of SETI says we may discover alien life in the next two years

MICHELLE CASTILLO
Metro World News

This summer, Earth is under attack. From action films like Prometheus and The Avengers, to comedies like Men In Black 3, aliens are appearing at the multiplex and threatening the fate of humanity.

But, not so fast, says the former director of the Center for SETI Research, Jill Tarter. The American astronomer believes that these films are just — duh — entertainment.

If extraterrestrial beings were to come to our world, they'd be so technologically advanced that they wouldn't need puny human slaves or our meager food. Plus, there's a giant possibility they wouldn't look like anything we've seen before — or could even think of.

"Whether our imagination is up to the task of really appreciating what nature might do somewhere else remains to be seen," Tarter told Metro World News. "Look at the body plan that evolved. Nature experimented and discarded some and modified other things. There are so many weird things on this planet that we are beginning to appreciate. I think that it might be weirder still from some other environment."

Prometheus, directed by Ridley Scott, hits theatres on June 8. HANDOUT

Most of Tarter's career with the non-profit SETI Institute — which stands for the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence — has been dedicated to examining the universe for other beings.

Tarter, who recently retired, will be discussing her ideas about the possibility of aliens alongside real astronauts and Hollywood sci-fi actors at the upcoming SETIcon on June 22-24 in Silicon Valley, Calif.

Tarter believes that humans will discover extra terrestrial life in the next two years. It's a valid question to ponder, especially because for thousands of years, humanity had to rely on priests and philosophers to tell them the "truth" about the universe. Now thanks to astronomy tools like the Kepler space observatory, we have discovered more than 2,000 extrasolar planet candidates to date. Many of them are similar to our home planet.

"We can almost taste the idea that Earth 2.0 is going to turn up in the near future," she said.

Recently, Tarter has been searching for signs of technology in the universe, using it as a proxy for intelligence. While she and her colleagues haven't found any spaceships or ray guns, Tarter doesn't believe that means we're all alone out there.

The data that shows that there isn't any life is also consistent with the possibility that there is abundant life out there.

"We haven't been searching for very long," she admitted.

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Summer's new reality TV gone to the dogs

Canines catching on. Man's best friend becomes a television sensation

Summer television used to mean reruns. This year it's gone to the dogs.

Several new shows star dogs and their owners in need of help. CBS has the lone network show in Dogs in the City, starring comic, dog trainer and businessman Justin Silver. It's joined by documentaries on PBS and HBO and a series in the works for the Disney Channel, among others.

Each Wednesday at 8 p.m., beginning May 30, Silver will try to help hound and human tackle unsettling problems like joint custody after divorce or dealing with significant others who just moved in.

Is man or mutt usually to blame for problems? It's 50-50, he said, but "a dog's behaviour is shaped by the people in its life."

Silver says he won't be the one solving problems, even though he jokes that he speaks dog. Instead, he will provide techniques and experiences so owners can fix their own problems.

"It's that old adage: give a man a fish and you'll fill his belly. Teach him how to fish and he'll never starve. I am teaching you how to fish. But no one learns how to fish perfectly in one hour. It takes constant practice."

If intervention is needed, he will call on his own pit bulls, Chiquita and Pacino. "I use my dogs as much as possible because the thing that influences dogs most is other balanced dogs," he said.

Dogs in the City seems to have a lot in common with The Dog Whisperer with Cesar Millan on the National Geographic Channel and It's Me or the Dog with Victoria Stilwell on Animal Planet. Bad Dog! is another Animal Planet show, although it uses videotape to capture misbehaviour in a test of sorts to see how far an owner's love will stretch.

Documentaries airing in June explore the rewards and redemption of shelter dogs. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals says between five and seven million companion animals enter shelters every year and between three and four million of them are euthanized.

Shelter Me, a PBS documentary, is narrated by actress Katherine Heigl and is sponsored by the pet food company co-owned by Ellen DeGeneres.

It follows an animal control officer, adoption workers, female inmates who train rescue dogs, and vets who acquire former shelter dogs.

"Shelter Me is about the lives that are changed when shelter pets are given a second chance," Heigl said.

Andrew J. Trotto, an Army veteran from Mission Viejo, was teamed up with Teka, a black Lab rescued from a Wyoming shelter by Freedom Service Dogs in Englewood, Colo.

"If it wasn't for her, I'd be dead right now," Trotto says in the film.

"I was an evil person. I hated you or wanted to kill you," he said, describing the post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) demons that haunted him. "People say suicide is selfish. But when you are in the zone, you're not thinking about that. The terror in your head drives you insane. She (Teka) will wake me up out of my night terrors."

Shelter Me will air across the country in June. HBO will premiere a documentary called One Nation Under Dog: Stories of Fear, Loss & Betrayal on June 18. The film looks at America's obsession with dogs, how far individuals will go for their pets and what it will take for people across the country to treat all dogs humanely.

The 73-minute documentary looks at the odds stacked against shelter dogs, spay and neuter education, puppy mills, dog-bite victims and how some owners respond when their dog attacks.

The Disney Channel also has a new dog show in the works for the fall and while it does involve a rescue dog, that's where reality ends.

The live-action, multi-camera series is called Dog With A Blog and revolves around a dog named Stan (who is really a four-year-old named Kuma).

In real life, Kuma is a husky, golden retriever and border collie mix who was rescued from a shelter. In the show, he is adopted to tame a pair of feuding stepbrothers. Turns out Stan can read, write and blog.

Dog guru Justin Silver hosts Dogs in the City. BRIAN FRIEDMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I use my dogs as much as possible because the thing that influences dogs most is other balanced dogs."

Dog guru Justin Silver

New dramas set to hit Global

Star-packed titles. Heavy-hitting shows about Sherlock Holmes, firefighters and mobsters head to network

Marquee dramas about Sherlock Holmes, Chicago firefighters, Vegas mobsters and a renegade submarine crew anchor Global's upcoming primetime schedule.

Shaw Media says star-packed new titles include the modern day series Elementary, starring Jonny Lee Miller as NYPD Det. Sherlock Holmes and Lucy Liu as Dr. Joan Watson; the gritty '60s-era drama Vegas with Dennis Quaid as a war vet and Michael Chiklis as a ruthless Chicago gangster and the actioner Last Resort with Scott Speedman and Andre Braugher as members of a submarine crew forced to take refuge on an exotic, tropical island.

Content boss Barbara Williams is announcing the 2012-13 lineup today at a splashy event for advertisers featuring talk show host Ricki Lake and NCIS:LA star LL Cool J.

Quoted

"We're having huge success with our scripted shows all over the place."

Barbara Williams, Shaw Media

Rogers Media announced its comedy-filled lineup earlier this week while CTV is set to reveal its new slate tomorrow.

Global's fall comedy additions include Go On, starring Matthew Perry as a recently widowed sportscaster whose boss forces him to enter counselling and Guys with Kids, about three 30-something dads trying to hold on to their youth, starring Jesse Bradford, Zach Cregger and Anthony Anderson.

New daytime offerings include The Jeff Probst Show, a one-hour talk show led by the Survivor host and Lake's The Ricki Lake Show.

Williams says the schedule is anchored by top-tier evening dramas, including Chicago Fire, about life at an inner city firehouse written by Law & Order creator Dick Wolf.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blake doesn't need anybody's 'approval'

Blake Lively is getting ready to say goodbye to Gossip Girl, the show that made her a star.

"I think the best way to describe it is like someone who really enjoyed high school, and it's like I'm a senior and I can't wait for the next thing," she tells Bullett magazine. "As an actor who plays a caricature of myself on the show, I don't think I'd say, 'Watch Gossip Girl for my best quality of work.' But I am very lucky to have had that experience."

But shouldn't Lively be worried about how her co-workers might take her remarks, especially with work starting on the show's final season this summer?

"I'm not in the business of trying to win the approval of my cast members, my director or my audience," she insists.

Former co-star accuses Fox of beating women

Matthew Fox

There seems to be no love lost between former Lost co-stars Dominic Monaghan and Matthew Fox. When asked by a fan about Fox, who was arrested for driving under the influence earlier this month and was sued for assaulting a bus driver last year, Monaghan bluntly responded, "He beats women. Not isolated incidents. Often."

When another fan pointed out that Monaghan was making quite a strong accusation, he responded, "An accusation is when you 'claim' someone did something wrong. I know."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Moves like Adam Levine

MONICA WEYMOUTH
scene@metronews.ca

Adam Levine is a curious creature. Since Maroon 5 started seeping its comfortable radio rock through the airwaves 10 years ago, the seemingly unremarkable frontman and Voice judge has dated his way through intellectual A-listers (Natalie Portman), fluffy pop princesses (Jessica Simpson, circa a very respectable 2006) and Victoria's Secret bombshells (Anne Vyalitsyna).

Is he cute and talented in a non-threatening way? Sure. But we have a feeling his sparkling dating resumé is a result of professional-grade smooth talking, which he whipped out in a new interview with Details magazine.

"There's two kinds of men: There are men who are f—g misogynist pigs, and then there are men who just really love women, who think they're the most amazing people in the world. And that's me," Levine tells the magazine.

But he's a rock star, so he's not perfect, of course. As for sleeping around, he muses, "Maybe the reason I was promiscuous, and wanted to sleep with a lot of them, is that I love them so much."

Laugh all you want, but when was the last time you turned off the bubblegum noise that is Moves Like Jagger? Adam Levine is in our heads, ladies.

Prince Harry. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Prince Harry has a job opening

When Prince William sat down with Katie Couric for an interview, he said what recently married Royals in line for the throne are supposed to say: "I'm just very keen to have a family, and both Catherine and I are looking forward to having a family in the future."

But more surprising is what younger brother Harry shared.

"I've longed for kids since I was very, very young," said the prince with a reputation for looking hungover on the polo field. "And so I'm just waiting to find the right person, someone who's willing to take on the job."

Harry, we'd like to introduce you to America, where hot girls are willing to let Donald Trump touch them.

Twitter

@ladygaga
There's a bird outside my hotel room that sounds like a boiling teapot! I'm so confused! Keep thinking my Tea is ready then am disappointed!

@BobNewhart
Peter Sellers was probably the best film comedian ever. He was a complicated man haunted by powerful demons but an absolute comic genius.

@TheStevenWeber
I think "Pessimist" would be a good name for a urine-based hydrating spray.

@AlbertBrooks
Working on a new movie script where I'm leaving specific moments for the audience to tweet.

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3 LIFE

Fashion Flash

Oh C-Ann-ada!

Ann Taylor is heading north of the border as the retail chain opens its first international locations outside the U.S. The New-York-based retailer announced on Thursday it will open two locations in Toronto this fall. With 274 stores across the U.S., the company says its expansion into Canada marks the first step in growing the brand's global presence. "We are pleased by the strong awareness Ann Taylor already enjoys in Canada and look forward to offering our Canadian customers great fashion, quality and value in a new, exciting and aspirational shopping environment," brand president Brian Lynch said in a release. Michelle Obama, Angelina Jolie and Canada's Rachel McAdams are among the famous faces who have been seen sporting items from the brand.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the Web

Designers in 1st Soweto Fashion Week inspired by South African township's creativity, history

Iris van Herpen: The queen of sculpture

The future of fashion. Metro chats with up-and-coming style star Iris van Herpen about designing, fame and going Gaga

FEDERICO GEREMEI
Metro World News in Italy

She's shy, she doesn't say much, but she does know what she's doing. We meet Iris van Herpen — a 27-year-old Dutch fashion designer — at the IED (Istituto Europeo di Design) in Rome.

Thanks to her organic and visionary creations, she's quickly risen to fame amongst international talents. Iris' hand-made 3D "sculpture-like" dresses can be found in top museums all over the world.

Not bad for a girl who once had a dream of becoming a ballet dancer.

You're labeled "the architect of fashion", who's your inspiration?

I've never heard anyone refer to me using that expression. Indeed, architecture is a source of inspiration for me, but I am first of all a fashion designer. I work a lot with Isaie Bloch (a Belgian architect who focuses on 3D printing), there's a great synergy between us.

What does fashion represent for you?

Fashion expresses my own identity. It's a mix of my tastes, mood and cultural background.

You've worked with Viktor & Rolf and Alexander McQueen, your icon. Any lessons learned?

I learned to be patient when working, I also learned a lot from his staff, having worked with them on a daily basis.

Floating down the runway

"I do not plan much but I keep fantasizing about a zero gravity fashion show."
Iris van Herpen
Fashion designer

Designer Iris van Herpen, left, and a model walk the catwalk at the Iris van Herpen Show during Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Berlin Spring/Summer 2012 GARETH CATTERMOLE/GETTY IMAGES

You've come up with creations for Lady Gaga's and Bjork's performances. What do you think about them?

They're not just singers, they're total artists — two amazing performers. Yet, they are so different.

What do you like about Lady Gaga?

I love that she's completely unpredictable.

And Bjork?

It's hard to express in words but Bjork's music and her way of communicating touches me deep inside.

What do they love about your work?

When I work on a new creation, I focus on finding and conceiving a specific personal identity, something that belongs to the person who is going to wear it. We all have our own individual personality, nothing is fixed nor immutable. Performers such as Lady Gaga and Bjork also rely on dresses – such as the designs that I produce – in order to express all aspects of their personality to the audience."

You are only 27, but you're already incredibly successful. How do you cope with all this at your age?

Everything goes so fast and I am trying to live it all day by day.

Have you always had a clear mind-set, in terms of your goals and ambitions for the future?

No, when I was a kid I wanted to be a ballet dancer. Dance inspired me for a while but at some time – I can't recall when it happened – fashion became my greatest passion.

Any projects in the pipeline?

I do not plan much but I keep fantasizing about a zero gravity fashion show.

GARETH CATTERMOLE/GETTY IMAGES

GARETH CATTERMOLE/GETTY IMAGES

GARETH CATTERMOLE/GETTY IMAGES

Lady Gaga in Iris Van Herpen. RYAN PIERSE/GETTY IMAGES

SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 15

There's more to pomegranates than health drinks and fancy cocktails

Are you over the pomegranate trend yet?

If so, you might want to revisit it once more. This time it's pomegranate molasses, a thick, syrupy concentrate that is sweet and tart and as delicious as it sounds.

If you take the unsweetened juice and boil it down until it is thick and syrupy, you have pomegranate molasses, a popular flavouring in Middle Eastern cooking. Pomegranate molasses once was unheard of outside of ethnic markets, but today can be found in the international aisle of most larger grocers.

And if you can't find it, it's easy enough to make. Buy a bottle of pomegranate juice (or juice concentrate), then boil it until it has reduced and become thick.

The thick, deep-red syrup has an intensely sweet-tart flavour that pairs surprisingly well with savoury dishes, especially grilled meats. Pomegranate molasses and walnuts are a classic flavouring for poultry.

Opened bottles can be refrigerated for long periods. But it's not likely to sit around for long. You don't need to love Middle Eastern food to love what pomegranate molasses can do for the foods you already love.

Ingredients

- 3 tbsp pomegranate molasses
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- 2 15-oz cans chickpeas, drained
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- Ground black pepper
- 4 cups arugula
- 2 cups baby spinach
- Kosher salt
- 4-oz log soft goat cheese

Roasted Pomegranate Chickpea Salad

This recipe serves four. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1. Heat the oven to 450 F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper.

2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the pomegranate molasses, garlic powder, salt and pepper. Add the drained chickpeas and toss to coat evenly. Arrange the chickpeas in an even layer on the prepared baking sheet. Roast for 15 minutes, or until the chickpeas are dried and starting to get crunchy. Remove the chickpeas from the oven and set aside to cool.

3. Meanwhile, in a large bowl whisk together olive oil and lemon juice. Season with pepper, then add the arugula and spinach. Toss to coat.

4. Divide the greens between four serving plates, then sprinkle each with kosher salt. Divide the chickpeas between the salads, then top with crumbled goat cheese.

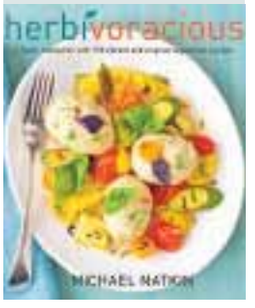
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Book review

Recipes for the savvy herbivore

Michael Natkin's Herbivoracious and its 150 recipes usher in a new generation of meatless cooking. With 80 colour photos, Natkin illustrates how vegetarian food can be intensely flavoured in a way that will appeal to readers with a sophisticated and adventurous global palate.

The author provides advice on how to craft vegetarian meals that deliver nutrients and complementary flavours. Among the recipes are: Portobello and Summer Squash Lasagna, Jamaican Rice and Peas, and Chocolate Chunk Bread Pudding. METRO



Do fitted sheets have you in a bit of a twist?

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Last month, a reader of my column asked me for advice about how to avoid getting laundry stuck within her fitted sheets in the dryer.

To be honest, I really didn't know the answer to the question, so in my column I asked the question to my readers and got back some wonderful suggestions that I would like to share with you.

1. Christine wrote what I thought at first was the most obvious answer. "Dry the sheets separately from your clothing. I don't wash and dry my clothes and bed sheets together."

This makes total sense to me and this is the method I use at home. Just for fun, this was the most popular answer!

2. Bev from Toronto wrote, "Try safety pinning the corners together and then the subsequent four sides, to make a sort of balloon shape. This still allows the sheet to dry, but avoids the annoying problem. Of course large safety pins will be needed, which are available in some dollar stores and most sewing notions outlets."

I love this idea as well, but still think this is too much work and would much rather option #1.

3. Patsy wrote what I think is a truly fabulous suggestion, "If you include small item clothes such as socks and briefs, put them in a mesh laundry bag."

This is such a great idea; I think I am going to put this as a footnote for our laundry class at the Charles MacPherson Academy for Butlers and Household Managers!

Finally I spoke with Bonnie Aprile who is the executive housekeeping teacher at our butler school. She said that sheets and clothing should never be washed and/or dried together as their different sizes and fabric weights dry at different rates.

Thus the rule of thumb is like fabrics and like clothing size should be dried together, so that you do not over/under dry particular pieces.

HAVE A QUESTION? SEND AN EMAIL TO ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

Dryer games: socks and underwear often like to hide in your fitted sheets. ISTOCK

4

SPORTS

Basketball

Ontario cities lining up to join NBL action

The National Basketball League of Canada is eyeing significant growth for its second season. The professional circuit, which featured seven teams in 2011-12, received five applications for expansion franchises — all based in Ontario — prior to Wednesday's deadline. Ownership groups in Ottawa, Mississauga, Kitchener, Windsor and St. Catharines are all hoping to have teams when the 2012-13 season opens next fall. The London Lightning's success story — averaging crowds of close to 3,000 on the way to a championship — has made the NBL Canada an easy sell in Ontario.
MATTHEW WUEST/METRO

On the web

The European Championship gets underway next week and UEFA officials are trumpeting it as "a true celebration of football in a festive environment." But there's still a troubling undercurrent of human-rights issues in host countries Poland and Ukraine. Scan the code for the story.

Los Angeles' Anze Kopitar scores the game-winning goal on Martin Brodeur Wednesday night in Newark, N.J. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Kopitar keeps Kings on road to Stanley

NHL. Talented forward gives Los Angeles 1-0 lead in championship final over New Jersey

Game 1

Kings	Devils
2	1

Anze Kopitar scored 8:13 into overtime as the Los Angeles Kings defeated the New Jersey Devils 2-1 to open the Stanley Cup final on Wednesday night.

Justin Williams found Kopitar with a backhand pass from his own blue-line and the Kings star raced in alone, deking Martin Brodeur before slipping it over him.

Los Angeles, the eighth seed in the West, is now 9-0 on the road in the playoffs.

The Kings are also 3-0 in overtime in these playoffs. The Devils are 4-2.

In a tight game without much offence from either side, New Jersey's attack disappeared for long stretches before a sold-out crowd of 17,625.

The Devils had five shots in the first period and just four in the second, but still managed to pull even at 1-1 late in the second period on a deflection off a Kings defenceman.

Los Angeles outshot New Jersey 22-16 in regulation.

For all the talk of Jonathan Quick as the Kings' uber-stopper in goal, New Jersey made it easy for him for long stretches. He was there when needed, however.

Brodeur was also sharp in a third period that eventually opened up. Colin Fraser scored in the first for Los Angeles.

Anton Volchenkov replied in the second for the Devils.

Teams winning Game 1 of the final have gone on to win the cup in 55 of 72 seasons (76 per cent) since the league went to the best-of-seven format in 1939.

Boston bucked that trend last season, however.

Game 2 goes Saturday in New Jersey.

It marked the 24th overtime game of the 2012 playoffs and the first Game 1 of the final to go to overtime since 2002, when the visiting Carolina Hurricanes defeated the Detroit Red Wings 3-2.

The game opened to a sea of red-clad fans waving white towels in the Prudential Center stands.

But it proved to be a less colourful start on the ice, with both teams looking to nip the other's offence in the bud.

The first shot of the game took more than three minutes for the Kings to record, after a poor defensive pass behind the Devils net led to a giveaway.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Lidstrom to announce if he'll retire or return

Nicklas Lidstrom has made a decision about his future.

The 42-year-old Lidstrom will announce Thursday whether he's retiring or returning to play a 21st season with the Detroit Red Wings.

The four-time Stanley Cup champion and seven-time Norris Trophy winner put retirement on hold in each of the previous two years by signing one-year contracts and answering questions from reporters on a conference call. This time, he's holding a news conference at Joe Louis Arena.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nicklas Lidstrom
GETTY IMAGES FILE

NFL

NFL decides to keep Pro Bowl

After a promise from players that the game will be more competitive, the NFL will hold the Pro Bowl in Honolulu next Jan. 27, a week before the Super Bowl.

Commissioner Roger Goodell had made it clear cancelling the all-star game was a possibility after the uninspired play of this year's 59-41 AFC victory. Following discussions between the league and the players' union, the NFL announced Wednesday that Aloha Stadium would host the Pro Bowl for the third straight year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jays sweep soured by loss of Morrow

Toronto's Edwin Encarnacion cracks a home run on Wednesday night at Rogers Centre. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brandon Morrow allowed four hits and struck out eight but left the game after being struck on the leg in the seventh inning Wednesday as the Toronto Blue Jays defeated the Baltimore Orioles 4-1.

Morrow was diagnosed with a contusion of the right shin and was listed by the club as day to day.

The Blue Jays had solo home runs from Edwin Encarnacion, Rajai Davis, Brett Lawrie of Langley, B.C., and Colby Rasmus in completing a three-game sweep of the Orioles.

Until he left the game, Morrow (6-3) showed a big improvement over his previous start at Texas last Friday when he allowed six runs in two-thirds of an inning, his shortest career start.

Wednesday's game

Blue Jays	Orioles
4	1

Morrow pitched 6 1/3 innings and struck out eight in holding the Orioles to one run on Wednesday. The Orioles' fourth hit of the game was the one that injured him, a shot by Wilson Betemit that hit Morrow on the right shin with one out in the seventh inning.

Morrow was helped off the field, keeping the right leg off the ground. He was replaced by Carlos Villanueva.

Casey Janssen pitched the ninth for his fifth save of the season.

Orioles starter Jason Hammel (6-2) allowed four runs and nine hits, four of them homers, in 6 2/3 innings. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL looks back at Grey Cup and 'where it all began'

CFL. League pays tribute to big game's beginnings ahead of 100th showdown

Members the University of Toronto football team pose in replica uniforms at the site of the 1909 Grey Cup on Wednesday. KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In 180 days the 100th Grey Cup will be held in Toronto, and the CFL paid tribute Wednesday to the game that became a national event.

The first Grey Cup was played at Toronto's Rosedale Field, and it was remembered with a plaque honouring the 1909 game between the University of Toronto and the Parkdale Canoe Club.

"The Grey Cup is synonymous with Canadian culture and unity, and this is where it all began," CFL commissioner Mark Cohon said.

"Just as Canada has come so very far as a country, the Grey Cup has grown into something bigger than sport. It's a symbol of our ability to come together to celebrate who, and what, we are as Canadians."

Lord Earl Grey, Governor General of Canada, donated the trophy to the U of T after they beat the Parkdale Canoe Club 26-6, in what was then known as the Dominion Championship of Canadian Amateur Rugby Football.

The 1909 game was attended by 3,807 fans.

The 2012 game in Toronto on Nov. 25 is all but sold out and Grey Cup chair and Argos CEO Chris Rudge has said previously that 80,000 tickets could have been sold had there been that many seats at Rogers Centre.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Getting to 100

The Grey Cup wasn't held for three years during the First World War, which is why this year marks the 100th game.

Tennis. Canada's Wozniak sets up clash with top-seeded Azarenka

Canadian Aleksandra Wozniak defeated China's Zheng Jie 6-2, 6-4 Wednesday to reach the third round of the French Open.

The Blainville, Que., native will face top-seeded Victoria Azarenka in the next round.

Wozniak dominated in a near-flawless first set and overcame a lapse while leading by a break in the second. That miscue was partly caused by a long injury timeout taken by the No. 34-ranked Zheng with Wozniak leading 3-2.

The pause left Wozniak to practise her serve on the court while a doctor and trainer spent at least 10 minutes examining and patching a heel blister on Zheng's left foot.

Aleksandra Wozniak in Paris on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

Wozniak managed to get her concentration back when play resumed despite exchanging breaks with her opponent.

"I'm content with this win," said Wozniak. "But the injury time was very long. You cool off a bit when that happens. After she was treated she still moved well, so it was not an easy win.

The Canadian won her last match against Azarenka — albeit at the junior level.

"It will be important to come out and only focus on my own game," said Wozniak. "I can't let her game or anything else bother me. I have to focus on each point and mix it up."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Venus out of tourney

Venus Williams followed little sister Serena out of the French Open. The elder Williams lost to Agnieszka Radwanska 6-2, 6-3 Wednesday in the second round. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clemens' defence turns to former Jays catcher

Roger Clemens, centre, and his legal team arrive at federal court in Washington on Wednesday. SUSAN WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roger Clemens' former catcher with the Toronto Blue Jays testified Wednesday that he had seen vitamin B12 "shots lined up ready to go" for players, a claim also made by Clemens and for which he was charged with obstructing Congress.

Clemens is charged with obstruction of Congress, perjury and making false statements for denying to Congress in 2008 that he ever used steroids or human growth hormone. The obstruction count contains 13 allegedly false statements, including Clemens' assertion in his congressional deposition that "four or five needles" of vitamin B12 would be "already lined up ready to go" in the trainers' room after games. The U.S. government maintains that Clemens concocted the B12 account as a cover for steroid injections.

During the trial, prosecutors have asked several government witnesses associated with major-league teams whether they've ever seen B12 shots lined up, and all of them have said no. But on Thursday, the first full day of defence witnesses, former catcher Charlie O'Brien replied "Yes, sir" when defence lawyer Rusty Hardin posed that question.

O'Brien, who played with Clemens in 1997, also testified that the secret to the pitcher's longevity was a split-fingered fastball. That was testimony designed to counter the government's theory that Clemens was able to pitch into his mid-40s because of performance-enhancing drugs.

Like other defence witnesses, the former catcher also praised Clemens' work ethic, which defence lawyers have also been stressing as an explanation for his success. O'Brien recalled seeing Clemens working on his fielding at 7 a.m. on the first day of spring training. Clemens joined the Blue Jays at age 34 after the Boston Red Sox did not re-sign him following the 1996 season. Boston's general manager, Dan Duquette, said at the time that Clemens was in the "twilight" of his career. Clemens won the Cy Young Award the next two seasons in Toronto and continued his pitching career until 2007. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I've yet to see anybody work like Roger Clemens."

Clemens' former Texas high school teammate and defence witness Todd Howey

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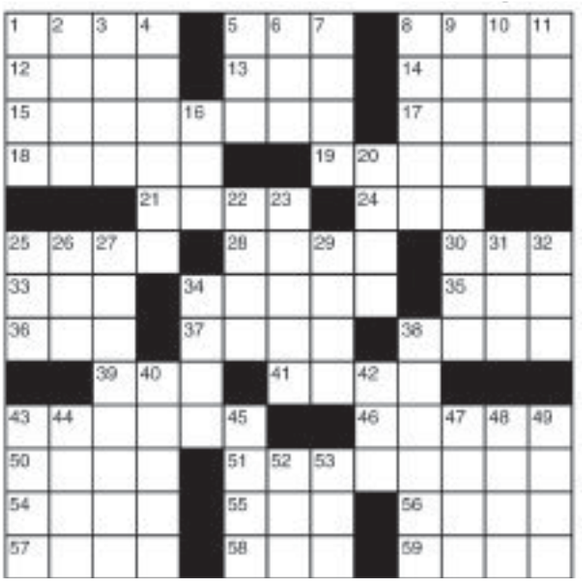
12 Last few notes
13 Trigger's rider
14 Data
15 Battling at close range
17 Infamous lyrist
18 Most of Iberia
19 Hippocratic oath reciter
21 Seductress
24 Zodiac sign
25 Ocean motion
28 Baseball nickname
30 Sphere
33 Historic time
34 Smiles
35 Ultramodernist
36 Susan of "L.A. Law"
37 Ice-skating leap
38 Group of quail
39 Pinnacle
41 Unit of force
43 Sandpiper's cousin
46 Match
50 Take on cargo
51 Queued in a way
54 Muscat's land
55 Perfume-label word
56 Actress Dunaway
57 Methods
58 Turn blue?
59 Pal of Kukla and Ollie

Down
1 Gospels' follow-up
2 Former surgeon general
3 Notion
4 Indigenous
5 Illustrations
6 Greet the villain
7 Kept tabs on
8 From then on
9 Pairing off uniquely
10 Hairstyle
11 Indigent
16 — budget
20 Automaker Ransom Eli
22 "You Bet Your Life" host
23 Got nosy
25 Williams or Koppel
26 Anger
27 Ordinary
29 Sans siblings
31 Gun the engine
32 Tarzan's son
34 Yawn
38 Ask to be excused
40 They take the cake
42 Singer Cole
43 Farm implement
44 Tibetan monk
45 Sax player's need
47 Caboose's location
48 One-name New Age singer
49 Paradise
52 Aye canceler
53 Payable

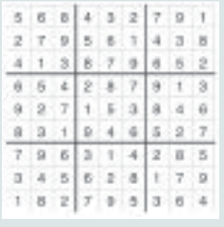


Sudoku

6					3		2	
			7	4			5	
	8		6					7
	9	5		3				
1			4		6			9
				1		2	4	
7					8		1	
	3			7	1			
	2		3					6

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play
This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

MA OI. ALCBV BWZMBWB DL XWZLOW V QWD EMULD. M FRWII PLR OMFJD IVP IJW'B XW V EUVCW QVCW.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE I WAS LEGALLY ORDERED TO KEEP DRY, I AM TAKING PART IN A WETNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals S

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Someone you meet on your travels will tell you something interesting. It may sound a bit harsh but you know the truth when you hear it, so listen, learn and then act.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. What happens today will awaken your sense of injustice and compel you to take action.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Don't worry about other people's feelings: if you have something to say then you must come out with it right away.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Sometimes conflict is inevitable and that is the way of things now.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. With mind planet Mercury strongly aspected you won't doubt for a moment that you are doing the right thing.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. You won't be shy about letting the world know what you think today.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Cosmic activity in one of the more dynamic areas of your chart, which endows you with no small amount of courage, so don't sit there and take criticism that isn't warranted – go on the offensive.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. If you want something done you can, of course, do it yourself, but you can just as easily persuade others to do the work for you.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Trust your instincts today and follow them wherever they might lead.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. It's all about attitude: if you believe you can reach your goal you will find a way.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. The best way to avoid trouble is to think before you act – but how likely is that when you feel so adventurous?

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. You may not take kindly to others telling you how to do things but if you are smart you will listen.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"This is the hardest game of Simon says ever."
Sameer

ERMINO ARMINO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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